Computerized reservation facilities are capital intensive and also involve significant recurring costs. These facilities are, therefore, provided at railway stations registering a large number of reservation related transactions. The reservation workload available at Wankaner Station is not high enough to qualify for provision of a computerized reservation centre even under the recently liberalized policy of this Ministry.

Derailment of Sayajinagari Express

1446. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that eleven coaches of Sayajinagari Express from Mumbai to Gandhidham in Kutch went off the rails near Surat on 20th February, 2002;

(b) if so, the number of passengers killed and injured in the accident; and

(c) the amount of compensation paid for each of the killed and injured passengers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) Yes, Sir. On 20.02.2002 at 19.23 hrs. 10 coaches of 9601 Sayajinagri Express derailed at Udhana station of Valsad-Surat Section of Mumbai Division, Western Railway.

(b) In this accident 2 passengers died in hospital, 4 grievously injured and 12 sustained simple injuries.

(c) No compensation has been paid so far. Compensation will be paid soon after the claims are decreed by Railway Claims Tribunal. However, ex-gratia has already been paid as per extant Rules.

Losses by Rail Accidents

†1447. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Railways suffered huge economic losses due to train accidents during the past few years;

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.